

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 136071
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:DROBINSON

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:DROBINSON

-----013072 301423Z /75

P 301345Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUQMHR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY 0000

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 136071

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 17008 ACTION SECSTATE MAY 30

QUOTE S E C R E T PARIS 17008

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MNUC TECH ENRG FR PK

SUBJ: PAKISTAN REPROCESSING ISSUE

REF: STATE 135953

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN REPROCESSING PLANT

1. SUMMARY: ON MAY 29 JOSEPH NYE AND EMBOFF MET WITH ANDRE JACOMET, QUAI NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION ADVISER, TO REVIEW GOF CURRENT VIEWS ON THE REPROCESSING PLANT CONTRACT. NYE COVERED SUBSTANCE OF REFTTEL.

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JACOMET DESCRIBED A MUCH MORE ENCOURAGING SITUATION WITHIN THE GOF: CO-PROCESSING HAD BEEN DROPPED; MOST OFFICIALS IN GOF WERE PUSHING FOR A DECISION TO GO AHEAD OR TO CANCEL; GISCARD WOULD DECIDE BY JUNE 6 (POSSIBLY THE 15TH); IF THE DECISION IS TO CANCEL, THE GOF WOULD WELCOME APPROPRIATE COORDINATION WITH THE USG ON ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

FOR PAKISTAN. END SUMMARY.

2. THE REPORTED HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CARTER-GISCARD MEETING OF MAY 26 RELATING TO PAKISTAN WERE MENTIONED: GISCARD HAD FLATLY SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TO PROLIFERATION IN PAKISTAN AND HE ALSO SAID THAT

THE US AND FRANCE SHOULD WORK TOGETHER TO HELP SAVE FACE FOR PAKISTAN; AND PRESIDENT CARTER HAD MENTIONED USG LIMITATIONS DUE TO THE GLENN AMENDMENT. JACOMET SAID HE HAD HOPED MORE TIME WOULD HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE FOR DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS TO PERMIT SOME BALANCED ACTIONS ON PAKISTAN AND CHINA - CANCELLATION OF PAKISTAN AND APPROVAL OF THE REACTOR SALE TO THE PRC.

3. JACOMET THEN SUMMARIZED THE CURRENT GOF POSITION ON THE SUBJECT. THE CEA HAD DROPPED THE COPROCESSING PROPOSAL AS IT WAS TOO EXPENSIVE TO DEVELOP AND NOT WORTH MUCH APPLIED TO THE PAKISTAN SITUATION. INVOLVED FRENCH INDUSTRY OFFICIALS WERE PRESSING FOR A DECISION - GO OR STOP. OTHERS IN THE GOF WERE JOINING THE CRY TO MAKE A DECISION, SOME URGING TO GO AHEAD AND OTHERS PRESSING CANCELLATION. JACOMET

SAID GISCARD WOULD MAKE A DECISION SOON (JACOMET
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MADE SOME COMMENT ABOUT JUNE 6 AND THEN SAID SOMETHING HAD BEEN SLIPPED BACK TO JUNE 15. WE ASSUME HE WAS REFERRING TO GISCARD'S DECISION DATE ON THIS SUBJECT.) IF THE DECISION WAS TO CANCEL, THEN THE GOF AND THE USG WOULD NEED TO CONSULT ON COORDINATION OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR PAKISTAN.

4. NYE REVIEWED IN DETAIL THE POINTS COVERED IN REFTEL. JACOMET INDICATED THAT THE GOF SHARED THE US VIEW THAT THE AFGHAN SITUATION WAS A SIGNIFICANT NEW ELEMENT AND MADE AN EARLY DECISION (PARTICULARLY IF TO CANCEL) MORE NECESSARY. HE NOTED THAT EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES FOR FRANCE WOULD BE IMPORTANT IN COPING WITH INTERNAL GOF OPPOSITION TO CANCELLATION OF THE PROJECT. IN ADDITION, WHILE THE GOF/USG COORDINATION OF ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WAS NECESSARY TO DEAL WITH PAKISTAN, THE VIEW TO INTERNAL FRANCE MUST BE THAT IT WAS A GOF DECISION TO CANCEL (IF SUCH IS DECIDED) AND NOT A RESULT OF USG PRESSURE. JACOMET HAD SPECIFIC INTEREST IN USG VIEWS ON HOW THE COORDINATION WOULD BE DEVELOPED INCLUDING THE ROLE OF OTHER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS IRAN. NYE EMPHASIZED THAT WE

WOULD FOLLOW THE FRENCH LEAD, BUT THE GOF SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THAT AT SOME POINT SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WOULD NEED TO BE INFORMED TO SOME DEGREE. JACOMET TOOK PARTICULAR NOTE OF OUR VIEW THAT IRAN WOULD PLAY A USEFUL ROLE. NYE CORRECTED JACOMET ON THE ASPECT OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT NOTING THAT WE WERE CONSIDERING F5E, NOT F15 OR A7 AIRCRAFT.

5. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SUBJECT, JACOMET APPEARED ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE MATTER. HE SEEMED TO INDICATE THAT HE BELIEVED GISCARD WOULD DECIDE TO CANCEL AND THAT THE COORDINATED ASSISTANCE

COULD BE SUFFICIENT TO CAUSE FURTHER WORK ON THE
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REPROCESSING PLANT BY PAKISTAN TO BE DROPPED OR AT LEAST DELAYED INDEFINITELY. JACOMET PROMISED TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE EMBASSY AND TO CONSULT IMMEDIATELY WHEN GISCARD MAKES HIS DECISION.

6. COMMENT: JACOMET CERTAINLY PROVIDED A MUCH MORE ENCOURAGING SITUATION FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF US INTERESTS. HOWEVER, PLEASE NOTE THAT GISCARD HAS YET TO MAKE HIS DECISION. WE HOPE THAT WASHINGTON WILL PRESS AHEAD WITH ITS DECISIONS ON THE ASSISTANCE PACKAGE (BASED ON AN ASSUMED DECISION BY GISCARD TO CANCEL THE PROJECT) AND THAT VIEWS FROM AMEMBASSIES ISLAMABAD AND TEHRAN WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PERMIT OUR FULL AND WELL CONSIDERED ADVICE TO THE GOF SOON AFTER A GISCARD DECISION TO CANCEL THE PLANT.

7. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO TEHRAN AND ISLAMABAD.
HARTMAN. UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NUCLEAR REACTORS, CONTRACTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE136071
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:DROBINSON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780225-1225
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978057/aaaaafph.tel
Line Count: 155
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dc208ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 135953
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2723114
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PAKISTAN REPROCESSING ISSUE
TAGS: MNUC, TECH, ENRG, FR, PK, US, (NYE, JOSEPH), (JACOMET, ANDRE)
To: TEHRAN ISLAMABAD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dc208ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014